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M. F. CONLEY, Publisher.

Eastern Kentucky Mountain Life Conference.

First Gathering For Big Progressive Movement Was a Success.

GREAT PROGRAM CARRIED OUT

The Eastern Kentucky Mountain Life Conference made a most auspicious beginning and if the organization which was effected shall meet the expectations of those who are promoting it, the results will surpass anything ever before accomplished for the people of our mountains.

The three days session of this first gathering closed at Louisa last Saturday afternoon with two brilliant addresses and with enthusiasm for the movement running high.

The first day, Thursday, was devoted to the opening of the conference, and was a day of real value to the cause.

The opening statement by Mr. K. L. Varney of Pikeville, revealed a sublime vision, a dream that is necessary for our people to have before they will strive for better conditions. His one great desire and object is to help our mountain country into higher and better life, materially and spiritually. It is a native of Pike-co., but has been "out in the world," as we sometimes say, and has made good. Now he is back here, in charge of the agricultural uplift work of several counties, and is to be assisted by County Agents in nearly or quite all of the counties. We are convinced that Mr. Varney is not serving alone for his salary and we think it is due him to say so. His heart is in the uplift work. He longs to see the people of his native hills live better in every way, and surely he is entitled to the earnest help of every good citizen. His is no idle dream. He knows what can be done along the lines mapped out. It is up to the rest of us to see the picture and desire its attainment; then it will become a reality, in due season. There was as good an attendance as could have been expected during severe winter weather. The trains brought people from every county in the valley and the local attendance was good. The program was of the highest order and the people who attended were thrilled many times by the stirring addresses.

W. B. Ward. Following Mr. Varney was Prof. W. B. Ward, of Paintsville, who spoke on the rural schools. We mentioned his address last week in the highest terms. He handled his subject in a masterly manner and it is to be hoped that the standard may some time be raised to the plane presented by this vigorous man of the mountains. His criticisms of present methods were scathing enough to arouse everybody not hopelessly dead.

What Varney and Ward said about their own people and their own country made clear to the visiting speakers what is needed and being attempted here.

R. S. Eubank. Mr. Eubank, editor of the Southern School Journal at Lexington, was the next speaker and his subject was public taxation for school buildings and equipment. In a most practical manner he discussed the subject and the audience was deeply interested in his suggestions. He showed the necessity of co-operation on the part of the citizens in order to get results worth while in the way of modern schools and equipment.

Judge F. A. Vaughan. Judge Vaughan, of Paintsville, talked on the subject of the road problem as it affects the schools. Having had experience in handling both, he is qualified to discuss the subject. For those who know Judge Vaughan it is unnecessary to state that he gave a creditable address. He is capable of doing this at any time, and on this important subject and occasion he fully measured up to the task.

Dr. J. R. Crawford. In the basement of the church Thursday afternoon, while the program in the auditorium was being carried out, there was another gathering, presided over by Dr. J. R. Crawford, the able pastor of the Presbyterian church at Pikeville. It was the rural church section of the conference. The discussion covered the question of country churches and Sunday schools. C. B. Varney and Leslie Brown, County Agents, took part in the discussion, and others joined in the effort to find a way to improve conditions along these lines. Adjournment was taken at three o'clock to hear Dr. Garfield.

Dr. W. A. Garfield.

"Spiritual Forces in Material Problems" was Dr. Garfield's subject. He said he would begin just about where his lecture ended last July when he spoke to the Sunday School Convention at Louisa. His subject then was "What Makes a Nation Great?" Those who had heard him on that occasion were glad to have more of the same kind, and they were not disappointed. Dr. Garfield's audiences are never disappointed. He has deep learning, high conceptions, fluency of speech, sparkling humor. A large audience heard him Thursday afternoon. The demands upon him as a public speaker are very great. We are told that he gave up an important trip to the North in order to come here and help in starting this movement. Dr. Garfield is President of Cen-



K. L. VARNEY
Of Pike, Promoter of the Conference.

ter College at Danville.

Dr. H. H. Cherry. On Thursday night Dr. H. H. Cherry, President of the Western Kentucky State Normal School at Bowling Green, spoke to a large audience. His address was replete with deep thought and apt illustrations. He spoke in a most earnest manner and his message covered the things fundamentally necessary to a higher and better life in the mountains or elsewhere. The "habbin' farmer" was given many suggestions as to improvement.

Redman Wiley. Mr. Wiley, the State Road Commissioner, spoke on Friday morning on the subject of building roads in the mountains. He has some very practical ideas on this subject and is in position to be of great service to the Big Sandy section in the efforts that are to follow in the line of road building. We are glad Mr. Wiley came to the conference, and hope to have him visit the Big Sandy again before long.

W. A. Harris. One of the liveliest men attending the conference was Mr. W. A. Harris, of Pike-co., who was here from start to finish and evidently enjoyed every moment of the time. He had an excellent paper on community aid for roads. Feasible plans for roads were presented, plans that can and should be worked out all through this mountain region. Mr. Harris lives at White Post. If we had a thousand such men scattered through the Big Sandy valley there would be "something doing" in progressive paths.

Permanent Organization. Friday afternoon was taken up largely with the work of making a permanent organization of the Eastern Kentucky Mountain Life Conference. The following officers were chosen:

President—K. L. Varney of Pike
Vice Pres.—Dock Jordan of Lawrence
Secretary—T. J. Collins of Floyd.
Treasurer—M. F. Conley of Lawrence
School Section—Fonso Wright, Chairman, Pikeville.
Miss Sallie Gearhart, secretary, Louisa.
Road Section—Fred Vaughan, chairman, Paintsville.
R. T. Johnson, secretary, Prestonsburg.
Farm Section—W. A. Harris, chairman, White Post.
B. A. Hendley, secretary, Inez.



R. S. EUBANK
Editor and Publisher of the Southern School Journal, Lexington.

A Fruit Lecture. Mr. Smith sent here to take the place of President T. J. Coats of the E. K. State Normal, who could not be present, gave an excellent stereopticon lecture on Friday night on fruits of various kinds. He says the mountains can produce the finest of large and small fruits, a fact which has been demonstrated many times.

E. A. Miller. The Agricultural Department at Washington sent Mr. E. A. Miller, a most intelligent and highly trained man, to take part in the conference. He delivered a fine address Saturday morning on the subject of County Agents. He said they must first have the spirit of service and a real interest in their work. They must have ideals above the earning of a salary.

Dean Thos. Cooper. President McVey of the State University, was unable to attend, having received an urgent call to Chicago. He sent Mr. Thos. Cooper, Dean of the Agricultural College, to fill his place. His address followed that of Mr. Miller. It was practical and interesting, and demonstrated what can be accomplished by persistent and intelligent effort on the part of farmers. He showed the necessity of growing what the country is best adapted to. Also he gave the interesting history of a community that succeeded in one of the poorest localities in the North. It was done by planning things that looked almost impossible, and then working together to accomplish them.

Jno. E. Buckingham. Saturday afternoon the most prominent banker in the Big Sandy valley, addressed the conference on the subject of "The Banker and the Farmer." Mr. Buckingham is President of the Paintsville National Bank and the active head of three other good banks in the valley. No address made at the conference elicited more enthusiastic praise and comment than this one. The speakers from down in the State were so captivated by the speech and so impressed with some of Mr. Buckingham's practical suggestions that he was asked by them to agree to be placed on the program at a State meeting to deliver an address along the same lines.

We feel justified right here in calling attention to the fact that every Big Sandy on the program measured up to the high standard of the conference addresses. It goes to prove that all our mountain people need is to get a vision that urges them to high attainments. This valley would soon bloom into beauty and a permanent prosperity if ambition and intelligence be applied by the masses; if every farmer dreamed of a better farm, a better residence, a better school in his district, better church equipment, better fruit, larger ears of corn, finer cattle, thrifter hogs, restored soil. The dream or desire must come first. We must not be satisfied with old methods.

A remarkable feature of the conference was the fact that every speaker emphasized the necessity of a "vision" of better things in the material realm before any improvement worth mentioning can come.

Dr. Fred Mutchler. The last speaker was Director of Extension Work in Kentucky. His address was as broad and clear cut and eloquent as any ever heard here. It was real pleasure and inspiration to listen to him. Every sentence drove home a point that was worth hearing and remembering. He believes that agriculture is the most important industry in the world, and when his speech was finished, everybody in the audience was convinced that it was true.

Model Rural Schools. Two very important meetings were held at five o'clock Thursday evening and Friday evening by the County School Superintendents and a few business men. The object was to agree upon some one thing to be done in each county this year. After discussion it was decided to undertake to build one model school in one county district of each county in the valley. A modern rural school building and equipment is no small enterprise. The district that gets it will find it necessary to help considerably. The citizens must heartily desire it before they can expect their district to be selected for the location of this model school.

Later on we expect to publish some facts about a model rural school building and grounds.

Notes. The next meeting of the Eastern Kentucky Mountain Life Conference will be held some time in October, according to present intentions. Paintsville will be the place of meeting.

County Supt. of Schools Fonso Wright of Pike-co., T. J. Collins of Floyd, and J. H. Ekers of Lawrence attended the entire conference and are enthusiastic about the movement. They will be important factors in its success.

Leslie Brown, C. B. Varney, R. T. Johnson and B. A. Hendley, County Agents are live fellows and took active part in the conference.

One of the most interested persons attending the gathering was A. H. Varney, venerable father of K. L. and C. B. Varney. He is very active for one of his age.

From Other Counties.

The following persons from other counties were among those who attended the conference:

Pike county—Fonso Wright, A. H. Varney, John B. Farley, E. B. Blackburn, Thos. Lowe, W. A. Harris, M. G. Clay, Floyd Scott, Frenn Runyon, Mose Alley, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McDyer.

Floyd county—Supt. Tilden Collins, Frank Allen, County Agent R. T. Johnson, and teachers Cooley, Roberts and Baldrige.

Johnson county—John E. Buckingham, Judge F. A. Vaughan, C. B. Varney, Mr. Ross, Prof. Ward, Miss Pauline Carter.

Martin county—L. Dempsey and B. A. Hendley.

Miss Abbott, of Stanton, came here for the conference and remained there the entire session.

Boyd county sent three delegates whose names we did not get.

PROHIBITION AMENDMENT RATIFIED BY KENTUCKY

THE LEGISLATURE PROMPTLY VOTES TO MAKE THE NATION DRY.

Frankfort, Ky., January 14.—Kentucky has ratified nation-wide prohibition. By an overwhelming majority in the House and 27 to 6 in the Senate, the national dry amendment was put over late yesterday afternoon. The vote in the House was 56 to 19.

Kentucky is the first "wet" State to ratify the national amendment. It is the third State to vote upon it, and the third to ratify it, Mississippi and Virginia already having taken similar action in the matter. Legislatures of eight other States are to meet this year to consider the amendment. It is said the amendment can not be adopted, under the most favorable circumstances, in less than three years, and a year must elapse after its ratification by the thirty-sixth State before the nation goes dry.

Now come on with the bill for State-wide prohibition and give Kentucky a chance to show where she stands.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS IN KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE

The following committee appointments of Eastern Kentucky representatives were announced:

F. A. Easterling, Carter and Elliott, appropriations, education No. 2 public bridge, public warehouses and granaries, railroads.

E. L. Allen, Floyd, Knott and Letcher, compensation of industrial injuries, education No. 1, Kentucky statutes, mines and mining, state normal schools.

B. H. Harris, Boyd and Lawrence, education No. 1, fish and game, forestry, interurban and city railways, military affairs, public monuments and historical records.

F. C. Vanburen, Johnson and Martin, geological survey, internal improvements, congressional redistricting, state university, tuberculosis.

Senator H. T. Morris, Greenup, chairman public building and monuments, judicial districts and reapportionments, claims, penal and reformatory institutions, public health and police power, games, fish and forestry.

Senator H. M. Brock, Harlan, chairman propositions and grievances, member revenue and taxation, mines and mining, constitutional amendments, legislative districts, reapportionments, military affairs, common carriers and commerce.

LITTLE GIRL IS BURNED TO DEATH

In the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wallace, at Ferguson, Wayne-co., W. Va., their 3-year old daughter was burned to death and three other little children severely burned.

The little girl who lost her life had her skirts ignited while passing in front of an open fire. In her struggles she passed an infant in a high chair causing its clothing to be ignited. Two little boys of the household saved the baby's life, but could not save the little girl whose clothing first caught fire. They were severely burned as a result of their heroic efforts, but it was stated that all three of the children who escaped death will recover.

The parents of the children were at the barn doing the evening chores when the accident occurred.

LAWRENCE COUNTY GIRL MARRIES AT HUNTINGTON

A few days ago at Huntington Miss Louise Isaacs and Mr. Sherman Earles were married. The bride is seventeen and the groom eighteen. They went to housekeeping at once in a home previously made ready by Mr. Earles.

The bride is the youngest sister of Mrs. Dr. Bussey of Louisa, and daughter of Mr. Henry Isaacs of this county. She is a very pretty young lady and in every way worthy of the best things in life. She has been in Huntington with a sister for quite a while.

Mr. Earles has a good reputation as to character, industry and capacity, and his prospects are therefore good. Congratulations.

COAL POOL OPENED ON JANUARY FIFTEENTH

The primary coal pool at Russell, Ky., to control westward Chesapeake & Ohio coal shipments was opened on January 15.

Terminal pools had been established at Cleveland, Columbus, Canton, Akron, Youngstown, Toledo, and Detroit. Local operators having coal for these points will consign it under pool numbers, but where the westward coal is for other points it will be billed direct to the consignee.

EXEMPTION REFUSED.

Samuel Horowitz, who wanted an exemption from military service upon the ground that he is a vegetarian, said that the officials of his local board had told him that he wouldn't have to "eat the Germans," "but fight them." Isaac T. Flatto, chairman of the committee to which his appeal was referred, found this answer of the local officials quite fair and recommended that it be affirmed.—New York Evening Sun.

CAR LOAD OF AUTOMOBILES.

Augustus Snyder, agent for the counties of Lawrence and Martin and a part of Wayne county, W. Va., has received a car load of Ford automobiles. The supply of automobiles will be short this year and later in the season it will be very difficult to secure machines.



JOHN E. BUCKINGHAM, THE LEADING BANKER OF EASTERN KY.

RETURN TO LOUISA.

Mr. and Mrs. Arch C. McClure have returned from Terre Haute, Ind., where they have been located the past few years. Mr. McClure having accepted a position with the Louisa Furniture Co. of this city.

MRS. ISAAC BREWER DEAD.

Mrs. Alice Brewer was born November 26, 1856, and was united in marriage to Isaac Brewer February 12, 1872. To this union four children were born. Floyd Brewer, who is a prosperous merchant and is postmaster at Warfield, Ky., is the only surviving child.

Mrs. Brewer died January 11, 1918, aged 67 years. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. H. B. Hewlett in the Warfield church, after which she was buried on the Brewer farm at the mouth of Marrowbone creek, in Mingo county, West Va.

MAN KILLED IN WRECK WAS PAROLED PRISONER

It has become known that Robert Forbes, of Lexington, formerly of Breathitt-co., who was killed in a L. & N. wreck near Newport Tuesday night last week, was the man who shot and killed Hannibal Hurd at Jackson about two years ago and who was pardoned not long ago when it was understood he would join the army. He did not enlist, but later became an employee of the railroad and was making his first run when killed.



W. B. WARD, OF PAINTSVILLE, ONE OF THE FOREMOST EDUCATORS OF EASTERN KENTUCKY